

Application No. 10/047,596
Express Mail No.: EV 410 060 177 US
Reply to Office action of June 12, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are pending in the application, with claims 1 and 16 being independent claims.

In the Office action, the Examiner objected to the declaration as being defective for not including the inventor's signature. A declaration signed by the inventor is enclosed herewith.

The Examiner also indicated that claims 1-8 are allowable in the Office action, without mentioning claims 9-24. In a phone call on October 2, 2003 between Examiner Ponomarenko and Charles R. Matson, patent attorney at Dorsey & Whitney, LLP, the Examiner said that claims 9-24 are also allowable and that a Notice of Allowance would issue for claims 1-24 upon receipt of a signed declaration.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-24 are believed in form for allowance, and such indication is respectfully requested. If there are any questions regarding the above, please contact the undersigned.

A petition for a four month extension of time to respond to the June 12, 2003 Office action is hereby requested. The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 04-1415 the amount of \$740.00 to cover the extension of time fee. It is believed no further fees are due with respect to filing of this Amendment; however, if any application processing fees are required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account number 04-1415.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

Date: December 11, 2003

By 

Lee R. Osman
Registration No. 38,260
Attorney for Applicant
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer No. 20686